

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 37 and 39 to read as follows:

37. A method for protecting an aqueous system against microbial infestation comprising incorporating into the aqueous system

(A) a component selected from the group consisting of hydrolysis-sensitive fungicidal active compounds, hydrolysis-sensitive bactericidal active compounds, hydrolysis-sensitive insecticidal active compounds, and mixtures thereof, wherein the active compounds have a functional group N-S-CCl<sub>2</sub>X, wherein X represents

1 halogen, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, or a halogen-substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, and

(B) one or more binders having a pH ≤ 7 and selected from the group consisting of (i) alkyd resins based on vegetable oils and (ii) acrylate dispersions, and thereby stabilizing the system.

39. A binder comprising:

(A) a component selected from the group consisting of (i) alkyd resins based on vegetable oils and (ii) acrylate dispersions and having a pH ≤ 7 and

(B) a component selected from the group consisting of hydrolysis-sensitive fungicidal active compounds, hydrolysis-sensitive bactericidal active compounds, hydrolysis-sensitive insecticidal active compounds, and mixtures thereof, wherein the active compounds have a functional group N-S-CCl<sub>2</sub>X, wherein X represents

8 halogen, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, or a halogen-substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl.—